

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF
TROCHILIDAE.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

A single specimen of a hummingbird in the collection of the Field Columbian Museum of Chicago seems to represent a new genus as well as a new species. It is here described through the courtesy of Mr. Charles B. Cory, the Curator of Birds in this museum.

Aeronympha * gen. nov.

Chars. gen..—Wings of moderate length, reaching when closed to within about 12 millimeters of the end of the tail; none of the primaries narrowed, but much as in *Vestipedes* and *Cyanolesbia*; tail about two-thirds the length of wing, and forked for one-fourth its own length, the rectrices obtusely and rather abruptly pointed, about 7 mm. in width, very gradually becoming slightly less than this basally; upper fourth of tarsus feathered, and together with the lower tibia, enveloped in a small tuft of light-colored feathers, reaching on the former about half-way to the toes; bill not long, but exceeding the head, straight, subcylindrical, moderately slender, slightly dilated laterally near the base, and rather abruptly pointed at the tip, neither maxilla nor mandible with any trace of subterminal serrations; nostrils covered by the frontal feathers which extend out on maxilla for nearly one-third the length of bill measured from the rictus, and considerably beyond the feathering between the rami of the mandible.

Type.—*Aeronympha prosantis* sp. nov.

* ἀήρ, air; νύμφη, nymph.

It is rather difficult to say with what genus this new bird shows closest affinity, since if it should prove to be a female it possibly lacks the tail-development of the male. From *Cyanolesbia* it differs in much shorter, less deeply forked tail, presence of tibio-tarsal tufts, and rather more narrow, abruptly, less sharply pointed bill. From *Vestipedes* (= *Eriocnemis*) it may readily be distinguished by the more narrow tail-feathers, much less conspicuous development of the tibio-tarsal tufts, less extensively feathered tarsus, and the greater extent of the frontal feathering on the base of the maxilla. From *Zodalia*, which it seems most to resemble, it may be separated by its relatively shorter, less deeply forked tail, with more sharply pointed rectrices, slightly stouter bill, and the presence of well marked tibio-tarsal tufts.

***Aeronympha prosantis* sp. nov.**

Type.—From Colombia [Bogota]. No. 11,852, Field Columbian Museum Adult, sex unknown.

Description.—Plumage of the upper parts metallic, but not glittering; pileum and nape deep reddish violet, the feathers of the former with bluish green tips; upper back, scapulars, and sides of neck deep bottle green, merging gradually into the deep reddish violet of lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts; tail prune purple; wing-quills, greater and primary coverts fuscous, with a prune purple sheen; median and lesser coverts deep reddish violet, those of the latter lying nearest the bend of the wing with broad bottle green edgings; anteorbital region (hind part of lores) black, the feathers with whitish bases; infraorbital stripe (continuous with lores) anteriorly black, posteriorly dull greenish; a conspicuous spot of creamy white just behind the eye; remainder of postocular region deep reddish violet like the nape; a rather broad streak of tawny ochraceous from the rictus to opposite the middle of the eye below the infraorbital stripe; rest of cheeks dull metallic parrot green with narrow edgings of tawny; chin reddish violet, the feathers with relatively large metallic grass green sub-terminal crescentic bars, and narrow tawny margins; remainder of lower parts metallic parrot green, the feathers of the medial portions and especially of all the lower abdomen edged with tawny; the lower tail-coverts mostly tawny ochraceous with large central spots of green; a tuft of slate colored white tipped downy feathers on each side of the lower abdomen; tibio-tarsal tufts cream white; lining of wing deep reddish violet with considerable metallic green anteriorly. Length of wing, 64; lateral tail-feathers, 47; central tail-feathers, 33.5; exposed culmen, 15.3; bill from rictus, 20; tarsus, 6.5; middle toe, 5; middle claw, 3.5 mm.

Unfortunately the only example of this hummingbird is without indication of sex, date, or further locality than "Colombia." It is, however, of the well-known Bogota make, and came probably from that vicinity. It has the appearance of being a female, but an adult.